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DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Integrated Pest Control Branch 1220 N Street, Room A-357 Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: (916) 654-0768

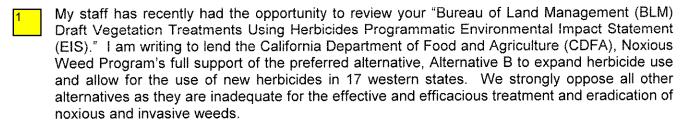
Fax:

(916) 653-2403

January 5, 2006

Mr. Brian Amme, Project Manager Vegetation Environmental Impact Statement Bureau of Land Management P.O. Box 12000 Reno, Nevada 89520-0006

Dear Mr. Amme:



- The BLM is to be congratulated on its continued promotion of the safe and effective use of herbicides as is outlined in the document. We are in support of the developed "protocol for identifying, evaluating, and using new herbicides" to facilitate evaluation and the addition of new chemicals as they become available in the future. The United States Environmental Protection Agency approves herbicides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act registration process. Any additional screening would be duplication of effort and not necessary.
- I was pleased to see that your Draft EIS recognizes the many impacts that noxious weeds have on the landscape if left untreated. Actions outlined in this draft EIS will promote ecosystem health of BLM lands by maintaining and improving native forb and grass species, ultimately preventing the loss of wildlife habitat. Failure to immediately and aggressively eradicate these small noxious weed sites will result in their further spread, which will cause adverse impacts to humans, animals, both domestic and wild, and native plant communities.
- The CDFA is mandated to work towards eradication of A-rated noxious weeds in the state and has a long history of cooperating with county, state and federal agencies in accomplishing this goal. The CDFA's Noxious Weed Program looks forward to a continued working relationship with the BLM in the eradication of A-rated noxious weeds throughout California. If I can be of any further assistance, please contact me at the above telephone number.

Sincerely,

Larry G. Bezark, Chief

Integrated Pest Control Branch

Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services

A.G. KAWAMURA, Secretary

